REMARKS

In the foregoing amendments, claims 117, 132, and 149 have been amended. Claims 117-163 remain pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application and currently pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Response to Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 117-129, 132-146, and 149-160 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Nishikawa et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,481,010). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the grounds that *Nishikawa et al.* fails to disclose each and every element of the claims, particularly independent claims 117, 132, and 149, as amended.

A. Claims 117-131

Independent claim 117 is reproduced below:

117. A method for enabling a user to search for media programs, the method comprising:

enabling a user to record a first set of media programs in a first storage device associated with a personal video recorder (PVR);

storing media information corresponding to the first set of media programs in the first storage device, the media information including information related to at least a title and media type for each media program;

receiving media information corresponding to a second set of media programs that are currently being broadcast;

receiving media information corresponding to a third set of media programs that are to be broadcast in the future;

storing the media information corresponding to the second and third sets of media programs in a second storage device;

providing to the user a search option to search for media programs;

responsive to the user activating the search option, enabling the user to enter a search term;

responsive to the user entering a search term, ***searching the first and second storage devices for media information having a high level of correlation with the search term***; and

providing a list of media programs corresponding to the media information having a high level of correlation with the search term.
(Emphasis added)

Nishikawa et al. does not disclose the above-highlighted elements of claim 117. For example, the method of claim 117 includes enabling a user to record ***a first set of media programs in a first storage device associated with a personal video recorder (PVR)***. The method further includes ***storing media information corresponding to the first set of media programs in the first storage device, the media information including information related to at least a title and media type for each media program***. *Nishikawa et al.* appears to disclose an entertainment system 10 that comprises a video cassette recorder (VCR) 42. Since *Nishikawa et al.* does not further define the VCR 42, it can be argued that this device is a conventional VCR for recording television programs. In contrast to claim 117, however, *Nishikawa et al.* fails to disclose recording a first set of media programs in a first storage device associated with a personal video recorder and further ***storing media information corresponding to the first set of media programs in the first storage device***, as claimed. The media information as defined in claim 117 includes information related to at least a title and media type.

Furthermore, claim 117 includes ***media information*** corresponding to a second set of media programs that are currently being broadcast and a third set of media programs that are to be broadcast in the future. In addition, claim 117 includes ***storing the media information corresponding to the second and third sets of media programs in a second storage device***. With media information associated with the PVR stored in the first storage device and media information associated with current and future programs stored in the second storage device, claim 117 further recites ***searching the first and second storage devices for media information having a high level of correlation with [a] search term***. *Nishikawa et al.* does not disclose searching a storage device which, in particular, stores media information corresponding to a set of media programs associated with a PVR. Instead, *Nishikawa et al.* appears to teach an HDD 228 and/or flash memory 230 for storing guide data, channel data, and program data. However, it is clear that *Nishikawa et al.* fails to disclose media information corresponding to media programs associated with a PVR, as claimed, and appears to be silent in this respect.

For at least these reasons, it is believed that independent claim 117 is allowable over *Nishikawa et al.* Also, it is believed that claims 118-131 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent claim 117.

B. Claims 132-148

Independent claim 132 is reproduced below:

132. A set-top terminal (STT) comprising:

a memory device configured to store media information corresponding to media programs, the memory device in communication with a personal video recorder (PVR), ***the PVR configured to record a first set of media programs***;

a processor in communication with the memory device, ***the processor configured to store in the memory device media information corresponding to the first set of media programs***; and

a receiving device for receiving media information corresponding to a second set of media programs that are currently being broadcast or are to be broadcast in the future;

wherein the processor is configured to store in the memory device the media information corresponding to the second set of media programs;

wherein the processor is further configured to provide to the user a search option to search for media programs, and, responsive to the user activating the search option, to enable the user to enter a search term; and

wherein, responsive to the user entering a search term, ***the processor is further configured to search in the memory device for the media information that corresponds to the first set of media programs and the second set of media programs and that has a high level of correlation with the search term***, and to provide a list of media programs corresponding to the media information having a high level of correlation with the search term.

(Emphasis added)

Nishikawa et al. does not disclose the above-highlighted elements of claim 132. For example, claim 132 is directed to a set-top terminal comprising a memory device, a processor, and a receiving device. The memory device is configured to be in communication with a personal video recorder (PVR), and the PVR is ***configured to record a first set of media programs***. Furthermore, the processor is configured to store in the memory device ***media***

information corresponding to the first set of media programs. In contrast to claim 132, however, *Nishikawa et al.* fails to disclose a PVR configured to record a first set of media programs and a processor that further stores in the memory device ***media information corresponding to the first set of media programs***, as claimed.

Furthermore, claim 132 recites that the receiving device receives ***media information*** corresponding to a second set of media programs that are currently being broadcast or are to be broadcast in the future. The media information corresponding to the second set of media programs is stored in the memory device. Claim 132 further recites that the processor is further configured ***to search in the memory device for the media information that corresponds to the first set of media programs and the second set of media programs and that has a high level of correlation with [a] search term***. *Nishikawa et al.* does not disclose searching a memory device which stores media information corresponding to a set of media programs associated with a PVR. Instead, *Nishikawa et al.* appears to teach an HDD 228 and/or flash memory 230 for storing guide data, channel data, and program data. However, it is clear that *Nishikawa et al.* fails to disclose media information corresponding to media programs associated with a PVR, as claimed, and even appears to be silent in this respect.

For at least these reasons, it is believed that independent claim 132 is allowable over *Nishikawa et al.* Also, it is believed that claims 133-148 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent claim 132.

C. Claims 149-163

Independent claim 149 is reproduced below:

149. An interactive media services system comprising:

memory for storing media information, the media information including information related to a title, start time, and media type for each of a plurality of media programs;

a software program stored in the memory, the software program comprising a plurality of executable functions;

a processor configured to execute the software program, wherein executing the software program includes:

enabling a user to record in the memory a first set of media programs associated with a personal video recorder (PVR);

storing media information corresponding to the first set of media programs in the memory;

receiving media information corresponding to a second set of media programs that are currently being broadcast or are to be broadcast in the future;

storing the media information corresponding to the second set of media programs in the memory;

providing to the user a search option to search for media programs;

responsive to the user activating the search option, enabling the user to enter a search term;

responsive to the user entering a search term, searching the memory for media information, corresponding to the first set of media programs and the second set of media programs, having a high level of correlation with the search term; and

providing a list of media programs corresponding to the media information having a high level of correlation with the search term.

(Emphasis added)

Nishikawa et al. does not disclose the above-highlighted elements of claim 149, which is directed to an interactive media services system comprising memory, a software program stored in the memory, and a processor. The processor is configured to execute the software program, wherein executing the software program includes enabling a user to record ***in the memory a first set of media programs associated with a personal video recorder (PVR)***. Executing the software program also includes ***storing media information corresponding to the first set of media programs in the memory***. *Nishikawa et al.* appears to disclose an entertainment system 10 that comprises a video cassette recorder (VCR) 42. Since *Nishikawa et al.* does not further define the VCR 42, it can be argued that this device is a conventional VCR for recording television programs. In contrast to claim 149, however, *Nishikawa et al.* fails to disclose recording in a memory a first set of media programs associated with a PVR and further ***storing media information corresponding to the first set of media programs in the memory***, as claimed. Specifically, the media information, as defined in claim 149, includes information related to a title, start time, and media type.

Furthermore, claim 149 includes ***media information*** corresponding to a second set of media programs that are currently being broadcast or are to be broadcast in the future. In addition, claim 149 includes ***storing the media information corresponding to the second set of media programs in the memory***. With media information associated with the PVR and media information associated with current and future programs stored in the memory, claim 149 further recites that executing the software program includes ***searching the memory for media information, corresponding to the first set of media programs and the second set of media program, having a high level of correlation with [a] search term***. *Nishikawa et al.* does not disclose searching a memory device which, in particular, stores media information corresponding to a set of media programs associated with a PVR. Instead, *Nishikawa et al.* appears to teach an HDD 228 and/or flash memory 230 for storing guide data, channel data, and program data. However, it is clear that *Nishikawa et al.* fails to disclose ***media information*** corresponding to media programs associated with a PVR, as claimed, and appears to be silent in this respect.

For at least these reasons, it is believed that independent claim 149 is allowable over *Nishikawa et al.* Also, it is believed that claims 150-163 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent claim 149.

II. Response to Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 130, 131, 147, 148, 162, and 163 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over *Nishikawa et al.* in view of *Koshimuta* (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,710). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Koshimuta fails to overcome the above-mentioned deficiencies of *Nishikawa et al.* For example, with respect to independent claims 117, *Koshimuta* does not teach or suggest the aspect of recording a first set of media programs in a first storage device associated with a personal video recorder and further ***storing media information corresponding to the first set of media programs in the first storage device***. Also, *Koshimuta* does not teach or suggest ***searching the first and second storage devices for media information having a high level of correlation with [a] search term***.

With respect to independent claim 132, *Koshimuta* does not teach or suggest a PVR configured to record a first set of media programs and a processor that further stores in a memory device ***media information corresponding to the first set of media programs***. Also, *Koshimuta*

does not teach or suggest that the processor is further configured ***to search in the memory device for the media information that corresponds to the first set of media programs and the second set of media programs and that has a high level of correlation with [a] search term***.

With respect to claim 149, *Koshimuta* does not teach or suggest recording in a memory a first set of media programs associated with a PVR and further ***storing media information corresponding to the first set of media programs in the memory***. Also, *Koshimuta* does not teach or suggest that a processor executing a software program includes ***searching the memory for media information, corresponding to the first set of media programs and the second set of media program, having a high level of correlation with [a] search term***.

Therefore, *Nishikawa et al.* and *Koshimuta*, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the independent claims. It is believed that claims 130, 131, 147, 148, 162, and 163 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from these independent claims.

CONCLUSION

Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well-known since the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

Applicants respectfully maintain that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

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